



NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut

Public Health Committee

HB 5635, An Act Concerning the Administration of Ultrasound Procedures

Testimony of Jillian Gilchrest, Executive Director

NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut

February 27, 2009

Good morning Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Jillian Gilchrest and I am the executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut, a statewide political advocacy non-profit whose mission is to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children, and choosing legal abortion.

I am here this morning in support of HB 5635, An Act Concerning the Administration of Ultrasound Procedures which would eliminate the administration of ultrasound procedures by nonmedical commercial operations. As both an advocate for women who choose to bear healthy children and an expectant mother, I am extremely concerned about the health and safety of women and unborn babies who receive keepsake ultrasound portraits and videos from commercial businesses.

A variety of respected medical and advocacy organizations also express concerns discouraging the nonmedical use of ultrasounds, including the Federal Food and Drug Administration, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the March of Dimes, and the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, citing the qualification of providers, inaccuracy of findings, and increased exposure to ultrasound technology amongst their top reasons for opposition.

As a pregnant woman, you tend to receive quite a bit of attention and if you decide to shop at maternity stores or register for baby gifts, you receive free giveaways and magazines. In most, if not all of these free giveaways and magazines, 3D/4D ultrasound photos and videos are marketed to expectant moms. I have attached one of the ads from the magazine, *Pregnancy & Newborn* to this testimony for your review and have also brought the magazine in and would be more than willing to share that with the committee.

By simply googling the words 3D ultrasound and Connecticut, I found 3 commercial 3D/4D ultrasound locations in Connecticut, *A Tiny Perspective*, in Glastonbury, *What's Kickin*, in Guilford, and *A Stork's Studio*, in Orange. On the websites as with the ad I attached for you, there is little to no mention of potential health concerns, although you might notice a seal that says United Imaging Partners. I don't know if all expectant mothers would notice this seal, but if they were concerned with the safety of this procedure, they would certainly have their worries resolved by this seal of approval.

The United Imaging Partners "seal you can trust" prides itself on meeting strict guidelines, but when you click on the seal to find out more their reassurance is misleading and provides women with misinformation. In

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order for a facility to be certified to receive the United Imaging Partners seal, they must have the finest ultrasound equipment, but according to the FDA, it's not the equipment that is a concern, it's how practitioners operate the equipment that puts the unborn baby at risk.

If a woman decided to click on the frequently asked questions portion of a website, her fears would once again be falsely reassured by an answer to the question, "Is it safe? Are there any risks to me, or my baby?" that reads,

"Extensive studies over 30 years have found that ultrasound has not been shown to cause any harm to mother or baby. Routine scanning of all pregnancies is now normal throughout the United States."

What this warning fails to mention is that leading medical organizations discourage non-medical use and that the reason studies haven't been able to show definitive long-term effects of ultrasound is because it is ethically wrong to conduct testing on unborn babies. A few studies do suggest exposure to ultrasound during pregnancy may have an effect on human development, such as delayed speech in children.

I think most expectant mothers are well intentioned, abstaining from foods they have been instructed to avoid, drinking no more than the allotted amount of caffeine, following the many recommendations for a healthy pregnancy, and yet when it comes to ultrasounds, there is little to no mention of risk.

According to the FDA's Office of Compliance, the "FDA regulates devices, but the qualifications and behavior of technicians and physicians would be regulated by the states." I thank the committee for introducing HB 5635. We owe the women of Connecticut who choose to bear children the right to make informed and healthy decisions.

Thank you.

Experience the Miracle of 3D/4D Ultrasound

Seeing your unborn baby resting peacefully in the comfort of your womb is an experience you'll never forget. Let us show you just how special this can be for the entire family!

**3D/4D
Gift Cards
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For a location near you, please visit
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or call toll-free
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(2229)

HIGHER STANDARDS - SUPERIOR PRACTICES - BETTER EXPERIENCE

The Miracle Within

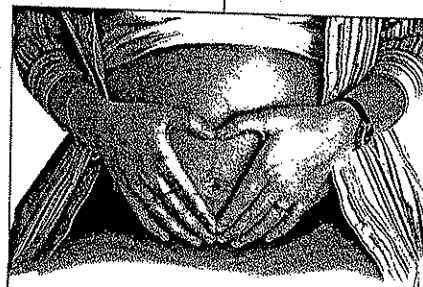
With a 3D/4D ultrasound, images of your little one will come to life. From a yawn, to a stretch, or the beating of your baby's heart, your 4D ultrasound session will give you a realistic first look at your baby's first movements in the womb. Just imagine seeing your baby smile or even wave his or her little hand. It's all possible with 4D ultrasound technology!

Higher Standards

When you choose us for your 4D ultrasound, you'll get more than just an amazing first look at your child. You'll also benefit from the finest 3D/4D ultrasound equipment, comfortable screening rooms, and a caring, professional staff.

Superior Practices

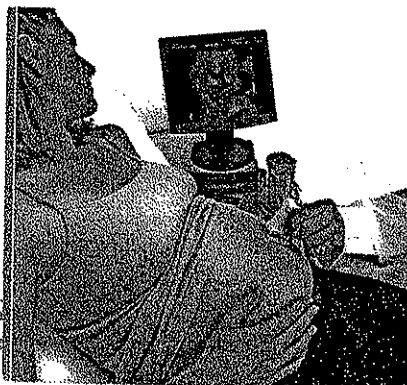
With a firm understanding of 3D & 4D ultrasound technology, safety protocol, and proper scanning techniques, our 3D/4D ultrasound providers are committed to ensuring that you get the best, safest, and most rewarding ultrasound experience possible. After all, we know you'd expect nothing less for you and your unborn baby.



Bonding Redefined

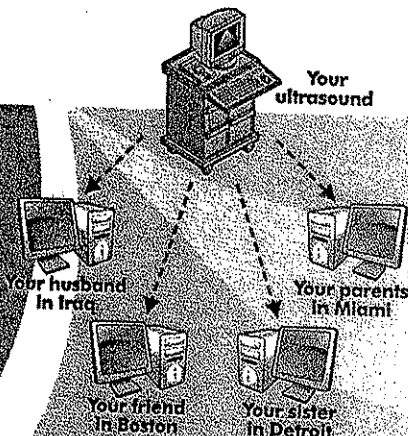
Better Experiences

We know how special the 3D/4D ultrasound experience can be, and we'll do everything in our power to provide you and your family with a truly unforgettable experience...from color images to a video of your ultrasound!



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Phoenix - (623) 466-6728
www.firstsight3D4D.com

Scottsdale - (480) 421-2229
www.miracleviewultrasound.com

CALIFORNIA

Bakersfield - (661) 900-4438
www.babys1stphotos.com

Danville - (925) 552-5700
www.adorablebaby3d.com

Dublin/East Bay - (925) 833-9500
www.lifesfirstimage.com

Santa Barbara - (805) 845-6500
www.myfirstpeekaboo.com

Vacaville - (707) 446-3343
www.alittleinsight.com

COLORADO

Colorado Springs - (719) 358-9280
www.babyexpressions3d4d.com

Two Denver Locations - (303) 431-2229
- NW Metro
- South Suburban
www.firstviewultrasound.com

Fort Collins - (970) 460-1596
www.4Dsonoinage.com

CONNECTICUT

Glastonbury - (860) 652-8469
www.atinyperspective.com

Westport - (203) 227-5681
www.lookingininc.com

FLORIDA

Brandon - (813) 249-2229
www.MeefTheBabyUltrasound.com

Gainesville - (352) 373-2227
www.abcultrasound.com

Jacksonville - (888) 454-2229
www.discoveryultrasound.com

Lakeland - (863) 648-2229
www.tummyvisionultrasound.com

NW Orlando - (407) 704-7997
www.momstobeultrasound.com

NE Orlando - (407) 892-1059
www.littlelifeimaging.com

FLORIDA (continued)

Tampa - (813) 249-2229
www.MeefTheBabyUltrasound.com

West Palm Beach - (561) 965-3236
www.ilcultrasound.com

GEORGIA

Suwanee - (678) 546-0502
www.imagesfromthewomb.com

ILLINOIS

Chicago - (888) 915-2229
www.goldenviewultrasound.com

South Elgin - (847) 742-2229
www.prenatalviewultrasound.com

KENTUCKY

Florence - (859) 647-2229
www.newbeginningsultrasound.com

MAINE

Portland - (207) 797-9700
www.accuvisionimagingcenter.com

MARYLAND

Bowie - (301) 249-2635
www.thatsmybabyultrasound.com

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston - (888) 915-2229
www.goldenviewultrasound.com

East Wareham - (774) 836-4156
www.preciousbabyimaging.com

MICHIGAN

Detroit - (248) 879-2222
www.visionwithin4D.com

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis - (763) 390-0292
www.premier4DImaging.com

MISSISSIPPI

Tupelo - (662) 844-2229
www.babyskickin.com

MISSOURI

St. Louis - (314) 845-1883
www.expectationsultrasound.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Keene - (603) 352-2111
www.ultrasoundinnovations.com

NEW JERSEY

Ridgewood - (201) 857-3725
www.envisionultrasound.com

NEW JERSEY (continued)

Westfield - (908) 518-0101
www.envisionultrasound.com

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque - (505) 222-3177
www.blessingwayprenatal.com

NEW YORK

Brooklyn - (718) 522-0543
www.envisionultrasound.com

Long Island - (516) 203-7237
www.impactmedicaltechnologies.com

Manhattan - (646) 530-8675
www.envisionultrasound.com

Monroe - (845) 837-1284
www.hudsonvalleyultrasound.com

Rochester - (585) 671-8850
www.babymomentsultrasound.com

NORTH CAROLINA

Fayetteville - (910) 778-5806
www.littlemiracles4d.com

Greensboro - (336) 286-3100
www.tinytoesimaging.com

Greenville - (252) 551-6934
www.hiddenblessings3d4dus.com

Hickory - (828) 345-0945
www.babyinme4d.com

Raleigh/Durham - (919) 467-5121
www.triangle4Dbaby.com

OHIO

Cincinnati - (513) 771-6222
www.mirrorimagingultrasound.com

Dayton - (888) 609-8111
www.brightbeginnings4D.com

OKLAHOMA

Edmond - (405) 715-3387
www.miraclewithinultrasound.com

OREGON

Portland - (503) 906-7892
www.nwprenatalultrasound.com

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia - (215) 752-7500
www.fetalvisionimaging.com

Wilkes-Barre - (570) 822-8454
www.showtimebaby3d4d.com

PUERTO RICO

San Juan - (787) 759-2229
www.babies4Dultrasound.com

SOUTH CAROLINA

Greenville - (864) 269-5420
www.visionoflifeultrasound.com

TENNESSEE

Knoxville - (865) 330-9995
www.focusedwithin.com

Memphis - (901) 328-7203
www.4dfirstimpressions.com

Nashville - (615) 383-0090
www.focused4dimaging.com

TEXAS

Austin - (512) 834-2229
www.clearviewultrasound.com

Dallas/Ft. Worth - (817) 481-7788
www.windowinthewomb.com

Houston (North) - (713) 686-2229
www.imaginginnovations.net

Houston (West) - (281) 855-6106
www.amiraclemoment.com

Killeen - (254) 690-2229
www.nowshowing3D4D.com

North Texas - (972) 398-1900
www.firstviewimaging.com

VIRGINIA

Charlottesville - (434) 970-2229
www.ultrasoundvision.com

Fairfax - (877) 961-2229
www.infantsee4D.com

Richmond - (804) 601-2500
www.clearsightultrasound.com

Virginia Beach - (757) 262-9563
www.babyinme4d.com

WASHINGTON

Lacey - (360) 459-3343
www.firstmomentscaptured.com

AUSTRALIA

Brisbane - (07) 33903344
www.miracleme3D4D.com

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Ask your provider about Sonostream LIVE!



Sonostream LIVE is an exciting new technology offered through our network of providers that allows you to share your 3D/4D ultrasound session with friends and family all across the world!

Imagine being able to invite people to watch your 4D ultrasound LIVE from any computer in the world with a high-speed internet connection! Your ultrasound will also be recorded and available on demand to anyone you invite. It's a great way for everyone in your family to bond with your precious new addition no matter where they are... across town, across the country, or across the globe!

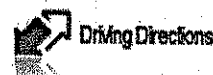
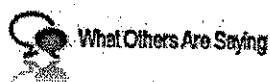


The Seal You Can Trust

Every 3D/4D ultrasound facility in our network has met strict guidelines to be a part of the largest and most respected network of 3D/4D ultrasound facilities in the country.

"When I had my 3D/4D Ultrasound my heart skipped a beat. He's not a shadow, he's not a skeleton. He is my son. He has his sister's nose and chubby cheeks. He's real!"

- Julie R.



(860) 652-8469

A Tiny Perspective - 74 New London Turnpike - Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033

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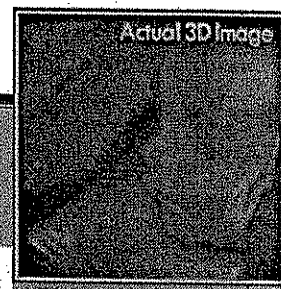
experience the WONDER of
3D/4D ULTRASOUND

Welcome to A Tiny Perspective 3D & 4D Ultrasound!

At A Tiny Perspective, you are able to "meet" your unborn baby! A Tiny Perspective uses brand new 3D and 4D ultrasound technology so that you can actually see your baby in live 4D motion while in your womb.

It is a memorable experience that you will cherish for a lifetime! Nothing compares to seeing 3D and 4D ultrasound images of your unborn baby. At A Tiny Perspective you will be able to actually see what your baby is going to look like before he or she is born.

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We are a provider of limited diagnostic ultrasounds and a full service prenatal imaging center offering elective prenatal ultrasounds. We specialize in 3D & 4D Ultrasounds for expectant mothers, allowing for a positive bonding experience between the mother, father, family members and their unborn baby. We feel that realistic surface images provide a connection between parents and child that can be beneficial to the whole family. Something special happens to parents when the 3D & 4D images are seen compared to the 2D image because the picture of the baby is far more realistic.

We will honor any of our competitors coupons.

Our exciting new Sonostream LIVE technology will enable you to share your 3D/4D ultrasound experience LIVE in real time with anyone in the world!

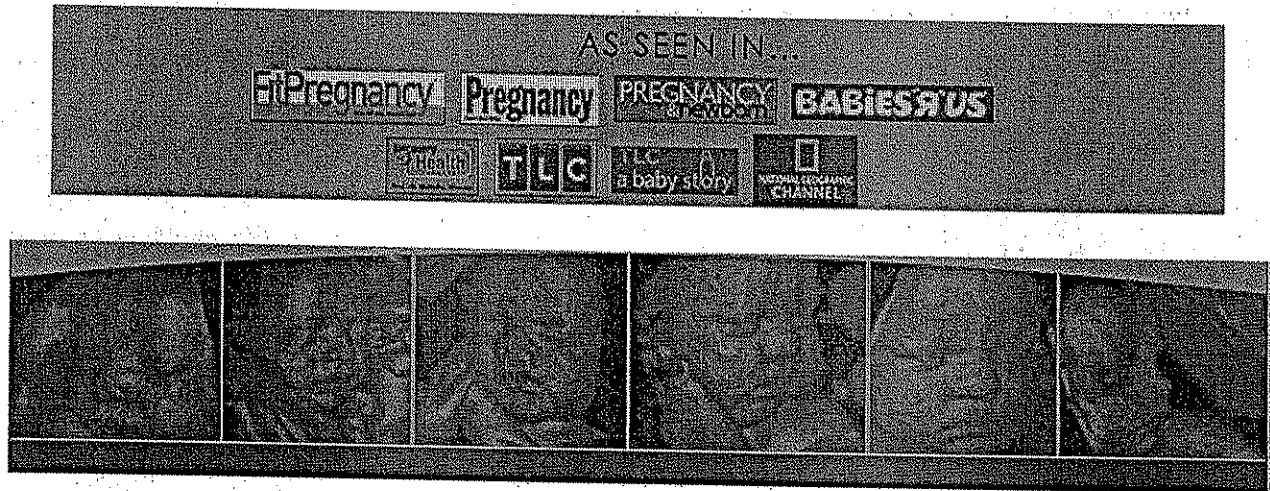
SONOSTREAM LIVE!

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In the past, expectant parents weren't able to see their baby's face until he or she was born. Moms and dads could only see black and white images of their unborn child through a traditional 2D Ultrasound. With our state-of-the-art GE Voluson 730 PRO Ultrasound machine, activities of the baby inside the womb can be seen which are difficult or impossible to identify on 2D scanning.

For example, with 4D scanning the fetus can now be seen to yawn, cry, swallow, blink and perform intricate finger movements. These activities can be seen in mid pregnancy although they become more common as pregnancy advances. Ultimately, the experience that you will share will be an incredible one that you will carry with you for a lifetime.



A Tiny Perspective is located in Glastonbury, Connecticut and proudly serves the entire tri-state area. Please note that our 3D ultrasounds and 4D ultrasounds can only be performed on pregnant women who are under the care of a physician and have already had a diagnostic ultrasound. Please call our 3D / 4D facility in Glastonbury, CT at 860-652-8469 should you have any questions regarding 3D or 4D ultrasounds.

* A Tiny Perspective is an ELECTIVE ultrasound imaging facility. We require that all mothers have documentation of their medical, diagnostic ultrasound. We do not perform medical ultrasounds. However, if we are suspicious of a possible abnormality, your doctor will be notified.